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 Aug 6-27 Lewis Jr.

Chennault 'Ghost' Raps U.S. Aides

CAPITAL REPORT: INCOMPETENCE ABROAD

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—Stashed away in the security of a box office vault here in Washington are 12 reels of tape recordings which will long haunt the friends of Communist China in official circles.

They are recordings in the voice of the late fighting General Chennault, of Flying Tiger fame, made last February while the general was being hospitalized at Walter Reed Hospital here, in the last stages of his fatal battle against lung cancer.

As a friend and champion of Nationalist China, who taught the Institute of Pacific Relations' pro-Communist policy within the State Department, General Chennault knew the whole conspiracy behind the sellout of Chiang Kai-shek in minute detail.

From memory and from notes, he knew the people and the parts they played, and the sabotage of the military aid program from the United States which has been ordered by Congress but which never went through.

All this he recorded in his hospital room with the help of his long time friend Edward B. Lockett, writer and former, Hearst State Department correspondent, and at the instance of an even longer time friend and controversial figure in the Roosevelt New Deal, Thomas G. (Tommy the Cork) Corcoran.

LIKE GENERAL CHENNAULT, Tommy Corcoran was and is a devout supporter of Chiang Kai-shek. It is he who will arrange publication of the Chennault memoranda as soon as the 18 hours of aggregate tapes can be transcribed and edited.

There are additional Chennault papers, made in his last months, in the hands of the House Un-American Activities Committee as late as last April which are of no less importance than the recordings.

These are the unexpurgated transcripts of an unpublished "consultation" which the committee and staff members had with

the general in his hotel room at the Willard Hotel, on which occasion he discussed the cause for the failures of American diplomacy over the world, not only in the Far East but elsewhere as well.

Part of this testimony has been published as a committee document, and is available to the public, but the most pointed and acid of his analysis was off-the-record for personal reasons.

The kernel of it was that the United States Foreign Service is infested with incompetents and arid dilettantes who overthink, overplay, and overintrigue, and that the interests of the United States would be better served if we had no representation at all in many countries rather than the representation we do have.

He said also that what is true of the State Department is even more dangerously true of the International Cooperation Administration (Foreign Aid program) and the United States Information Service.

HE DESCRIBED A system of "post-hopping," in which personnel get themselves assigned for a few months to one country, then get themselves moved to another, and continue this process until they have enjoyed an around-the-world luxury tour at government expense, never contributing any worthwhile service anywhere.

Particularly in the Asian assignments, he said, the American personnel are excessive in their partying and exhibitionism, and in daily operation are essentially adjuncts of the British mission.

They associate almost exclusively with British personnel, have little contact with the native population professionally and none at all socially. He said this is due largely to a standard inability to speak the language and a lack of primary training in this connection.

Both the recordings and the off-the-record testimony go into details and individual personalities.

Could be that the general's ghost is more to worry about than the general himself, when he was alive. He had some qualms; the ghost does not.

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LATE GEN. CHENNAULT

In life he had qualms but his "ghost" speaks loud and clear.